

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the amendments to the above-referenced application, presented herein, be entered prior to examination.

The specification has been amended to include a "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" section, as well as to replace the "ABSTRACT" with an abstract in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §1.72.

By this amendment claims 1-30 are canceled and new claims 31-48 have been added herein.

It is respectfully submitted that support for new claims 31-48 can be found throughout the specification and that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Should the examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate resolution of any outstanding issues, the examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the applicant's attorney at the number indicated below.

An early and favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


Paul R. Audet
Reg. No. 26,439
Attorney for Applicants

U.S. Surgical, a division of
TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP
150 Glover Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06856
(203) 845-1480 Phone